



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,045	11/25/2003	Jan Cornelius De Jong	7682-108-999	8309

  

20583	7590	12/31/2007
JONES DAY 222 EAST 41ST ST NEW YORK, NY 10017		

  

EXAMINER	
HILL, MYRON G	

  

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1648	

  

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
12/31/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/722,045

Applicant(s)

DE JONG ET AL.

Examiner

Myron G. Hill

Art Unit

1648

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 48-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 48-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10466811.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                        |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>see action</u> .                                              | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election with traverse of the species MPV N 1-00 in the reply filed on 9/24/07 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the additional species are related. This is not found persuasive because each sequence requires a separate search.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

See note for claim 62 in the rejection of USC § 103 below.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

Signed and initialed copies of the IDS papers filed 7/13/05, 6/5/06, and 8/28/06 are enclosed.

### ***Sequence Requirements***

This application contains sequence disclosures that are encompassed by the definitions for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 CFR 1.821(a)(1) and (a)(2). However, this application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 through 1.825 for the reason(s) set forth on as follows:

The specification does not contain sequence identifiers (SEQ ID#s) in all locations where sequences are disclosed, see at least Figure 20 and the brief description associated with the figure.

Full compliance with the sequence rules is required in response to this Office Action. A complete response to this office action should include both compliance with the sequence rules and a response to the Office Action set forth below. Failure to fully comply with **both** these requirements in the time period set forth in this Office Action will be held non-responsive.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 48-58 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for detection of hMPV using N sequence from isolate 1-00, does not reasonably provide enablement for mammalian MPV or anything that is not N sequence from isolate 1-00 or fragments of the N sequence. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The instant claims are evaluated for enablement based on the Wands analysis. Many of the factors regarding undue experimentation have been summarized in *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (Fed.Circ.1988) as follows:

(1) the nature of the invention, (2) the state of the prior art, (3) the predictability or lack thereof in the art, (4) the amount of direction or guidance present, (5) the presence or absence of working examples, (6) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (7) the relative skill of those in the art, and (8) the breadth of the claims.

The invention is drawn to detecting mammalian or human metapneumoviruses and the claims encompass a positive result by not detecting other known viruses.

The prior art only teaches hMPV and the prior art teaches that there are diseases without known causing agents (van den Hoogen 2001).

The specification does not teach the genus of mammalian metapneumoviruses.

The specification does not teach the only possible agents that have identical cpe as hRSV or hPIV are all human or mammalian metapneumoviruses.

The specification does not enable one of skill in the art to know that all agents that have identical cpe as hRSV or hPIV are all human or mammalian metapneumoviruses.

The specification does not teach fragments of the nucleic acid or protein that bind or react in an immunospecific manner.

The enabling disclosure is clearly not commensurate in scope with these claims. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Without specific guidance or direction and /or working examples, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to reproducibly practice the entire scope of the invention as claimed, without undue experimentation.

***New Rejections***

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 62 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The claims are drawn to a deposit. This requires the specific virus to determine the sequence to enable the claim.

For the reasons discussed above, it is apparent that the deposit specifically recited in the claims are required to practice the claimed invention. As a required element they must be known and readily available to the public or obtainable by repeatable method set forth in the specification, or otherwise readily available to the public. If not so obtainable or available, the enablement

requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, may be satisfied by a deposit of I-2614. See 37 CFR 1.802.

If a deposit is made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration by applicants or someone associated with the patent owner who is in a position to make such assurances, or a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature, stating that the deposit has been made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty and that all restrictions imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent, would satisfy the deposit requirements. See 37 CFR 1.808.

If a deposit is not made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration by applicants or someone associated with the patent owner who is in a position to make such assurances, or a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature, stating that the following criteria have been met:

(a) during the pendency of this application, access to the deposits will be afforded to one determined by the commissioner to be entitled thereto;

(b) all restrictions imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited biological material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent on this application;

(C) the deposits will be maintained in the public depository for a period of at least thirty years from the date of the deposit or for the enforceable life of the patent or for a period of five years after the date of the most recent request for

the furnishing of a sample of the deposited biological material, whichever is longest; and

(d) a viability statement in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.807; and

(e) the deposits will be replaced if they should become necessary due to inviability, contamination or loss of capability to function in the manner described in the specification.

In addition, the identifying information set forth in 37 CFR 1.809(d) should be added to the specification. See 37 CFR 1.803-37 CFR 1.809 for additional explanation of these requirements.

Thus, with the lack of guidance in the specification, it would require undue burden to make the claimed invention.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 48-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over van den Hoogen *et al.* (2001, from IDS).



Claim 62 is included following applicants assertion that "it is only one sequence". The claim is included with the assumption that it is the same clone as the elected sequence comes from. Pages 2-3 of the specification do not clearly indicate this to be the case. The claim is examined to the extent that the nucleic acid sequence is the elected sequence.

The claims are drawn to detecting metapneumovirus.

van den Hoogen *et al.* teach a new virus, human metapneumovirus clone 1-00 and the N sequence that is associated with previously undiagnosed respiratory disease (page 719, column 1, Figures 3 and 5).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have known about RSV and other respiratory viruses and the need to detect them. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have been motivated to use the N sequence of the newly discovered respiratory disease causing agent to detect the presence of the newly discovered viral agent to better determine the agent causing the illness or to use in serological surveillance to follow up on respiratory disease in a population.

While the entire sequence is not disclosed, the article has possession of the virus isolate 1-00 and partial sequence of N is given. One of ordinary skill in the art would be able to determine the entirety of the N sequence and make antibodies to it.

Thus, it would be *prima facie* obvious at the time of invention to use the N sequence of the virus of van den Hoogen to assay for respiratory viruses with the expectation of success

### ***Conclusion***

No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Myron G. Hill whose telephone number is 571-272-0901. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am-5 pm Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bruce Campell can be reached on 571-272-0974. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number:  
10/722,045  
Art Unit: 1648

Page 10

MGH  
12/26/07

/Bruce Campell/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1648